

**TOWN OF WALPOLE
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
OCTOBER 10, 2019**

Selectboard Present: Steven Dalessio (Chair); Peggy Pschirrer; Cheryl Mayberry

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Dalessio called this meeting of the Selectboard to order at 6:30 PM in the Walpole Town Hall. He advised that this meeting is being recorded and asked anyone wishing to speak to identify themselves for the record. There were three visitors in attendance.

PUBLIC BUSINESS:

PETITION WARRANT ARTICLE FOR PLASTIC BAG BAN: Ruby Frithsen and Sidney Curven, students from Fall Mountain Regional High School, were present to talk about wanting to create a Warrant Article for a plastic bag ban. They feel it is time to act on this by towns, cities and government groups. It is not up to individual people to make changes. Ms. Frithsen is the co-founder of the Fall Mountain Regional High School Green Group and their group would be willing to help put this into action if they knew the steps involved to proceed with this request and to reach their goals. Mr. Dalessio asked if they would consider the yellow bags the Town uses as a part of this ban. Ms. Frithsen said it would apply more to the plastic bags at grocery stores. Ms. Curven noted they were not thinking about the yellow bags but if there was an alternate solution it would be acceptable. Mr. Dalessio pointed out that the yellow bags have a considerable financial impact on the Town; the bags generate money used to operate the Recycling Center. If they were no longer used it would increase property taxes. They need to look at unintended consequences. Ms. Mayberry spoke about many people using the plastic bags for recycling. At times the larger plastic bags are too heavy for people to lift. The store-sized bags are manageable. She thinks this is a great idea and they are thinking about the future but what is a reasonable alternative. Ms. Frithsen noted it is also important for us to look at the environmental crisis that our world is soon entering. Paper bags are an alternative, however Ms. Frithsen would like to see cloth bags and/or the store bags being used. Mrs. Pschirrer feels it is important for them to think about what the alternatives are. What are the benefits to the Town now and in the future? This could be brought to the public's attention by a Warrant Article at the Annual Town Meeting. They could make a presentation to the public at the Town Hall on alternatives and how they intend to enforce it. Mr. Dalessio explained they will need to petition the Town and need 25 signatures of registered voters. This petition is needed in the Selectboard office five weeks before the 2nd Tuesday in March 2020. It should be submitted at least eight weeks prior to that date to be sure it meets the legal standards. The Selectboard Office will help them through the process.

WALPOLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Mr. Lew Shelley advised that Mr. Harold Putnam passed away last year. The Walpole Conservation Commission has approved the purchase of a memorial stone bench and would like permission to place this bench near the Cranberry Meadow Dam which is Hooper property. Both he and Ms. Helen Dalbeck looked at the area. They recommend that it be placed down near the back side of the dam but not at the dam. They would like to get it in before the ground freezes. Mr. Dalessio noted the Hooper Board will discuss this when they have their meeting.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Ms. Mayberry moved to accept the Accounts Payable Check Register in the amount of \$44,236.29 for checks issued October 11, 2019. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved.

The above amount includes a \$21,423.38 payment to the NH Retirement System.

PAYROLL:

Ms. Mayberry moved to accept the Payroll Check Register for the week ending October 5, 2019, in the amount of \$28,600.92 for checks issued October 11, 2019, and the electronic fund transfer for the 941 Employer Taxes in the amount of \$5,847.36. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved.

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES:

SELECTBOARD MINUTES – October 3, 2019: Ms. Mayberry moved to accept the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting of October 3, 2019, with a correction on page 2, under Mr. Chip Wood, change “This is a personal vendetta with the Walpole Road Agent” to “Mr. Wood thinks this is a personal vendetta with the Walpole Road Agent”. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the Minutes and correction were approved.

NON-PUBLIC SELECTBOARD SESSION - October 3, 2019: Ms. Mayberry moved to accept the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard Session of October 3, 2019, as submitted. These Minutes will remain sealed. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the Minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Selectboard acknowledged receipt of the following Committee reports:

- Walpole Fire District Meeting – September 4, 2019;
- Walpole Conservation Commission – September 9, 2019.

BUILDING PERMITS:

Building Permit #2019-36, CHRISTOPHER & KATHERINE NORTHCOTT, 104 Cheney Hill Road, Map and Lot #013-057-001: Following a lengthy review of Building Permit No. 2019-36 for Christopher and Katherine Northcott, there was a consensus of the Selectboard to table it at this time. Mr. Dalessio advised that Mrs. Sarah Downing will contact them to request they come into a meeting to discuss their building permit with the Selectboard.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alstead Center Road Weight Limit Letters to Bazin Brothers Trucking and the Town of Westminister, VT.:

Ms. Mayberry moved to approve the letter to Bazin Brothers Trucking regarding that the Alstead Center Road from the Alstead-Drewsville line to the intersection of NH Rt. 123, in both directions, has been posted with a 20-ton weight limit. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved.

Ms. Mayberry moved to approve the letter to the Town of Westminister, VT regarding that the Alstead Center Road from the Alstead-Drewsville line to the intersection of NH Rt. 123, in both directions, has been posted with a 20-ton weight limit. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved.

PENDING FURTHER ACTIONS:

Citizen’s Complaint 2019-02 Letter, Ramsay Hill Right-Of-Way, and New Reuse Center: Mr. Dalessio advised that the three above Pending Further Actions will be tabled until next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Beaudry Congratulatory Letter: Mrs. Pschirrer moved to approve and sign the congratulatory letter to Mr. Thomas Beaudry on being selected “Educator of the Year” by the Cheshire County Conservation District. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mrs. Pschirrer, Ms. Mayberry and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved.

Mrs. Pschirrer pointed out that Mr. Beaudry has always been a strong contributor in the Town of Walpole, serving on the Conservation Committee and chairing it for several years. Mr. Dalessio added that the Town of Walpole should be proud as this is the third “Educator of the Year” award. Previously Mrs. Eloise Clark and Mrs. Rebecca Whipple received this award.

Expense for Broadband Survey: Mrs. Pschirrer asked if the Selectboard would authorize taking some funding out of the Executive portion of the budget as the Broadband Committee needs funds to put the town-wide survey on “Survey Monkey” and for other expenses. As a committee they have been operating without any funding since May.

Mr. Dalessio moved to take \$500.00 from the Professional Services line for the Broadband Survey and other expenses. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Mr. Dalessio, Mrs. Pschirrer and Ms. Mayberry in favor, the motion was approved.

Mrs. Pschirrer reported the Broadband Committee is waiting for the Request for Proposals to come in. They will be appreciative for these funds.

Tree Removal at 42 Main Street: Mrs. Downing reported that two Liberty Elm trees are dead and one is still alive. Mrs. Pschirrer noted there are trees outside the front of the Town Hall that are also dying. The stumps also need to be removed. Mr. Dalessio suggested Mr. Rau contact Mr. Rich Anderson about the tree removal. He would like to have Rice Tree Service come in to evaluate some of the trees including the trees by the Town Hall. Ms. Mayberry would like to see a plan for replacing some of these large old trees. Maybe look at a different tree other than Elm. Mrs. Pschirrer suggested Linden trees; they are quite often used by cities. Mr. Dalessio summarized the following steps: 1) have Rice Tree Service come in to evaluate the trees we feel should be taken down; 2) Mr. Rau will make arrangements to have dead trees removed; 3) Mr. Rau will make sure the stumps are ground down; and (4) have a plan to re-plant trees at an appropriate time.

Federal Funding Workshop in Keene: Mr. Dalessio attended an earlier training in Claremont. This workshop is also sponsored by Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster. Many agencies will be in attendance.

CCCD’s Annual Meeting: The Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) will hold their 74th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 29th from 6-9pm at the Keene Country Club. The Keynote Address is “Citizens in The Water”. Mr. Tom Beaudry will receive his award at this meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SELECTBOARD SESSION:

Mrs. Pschirrer moved to enter into a Non-Public Selectboard Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II to discuss (a) Personnel. Ms. Mayberry seconded the motion and, on a roll call vote with Mrs. Pschirrer, Ms. Mayberry and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved at 7:29 PM.

The regular Selectboard meeting resumed at 7:40 PM.

Mrs. Pschirrer moved that the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard Session of October 10, 2019, be sealed. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mrs. Pschirrer, Ms. Mayberry and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved.

RECESS SELECTBOARD MEETING:

Ms. Mayberry moved to recess this Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard will enter into a meeting as the Hooper Trustees. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved at 7:41 PM.

The regular Selectboard meeting resumed at 8:10 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Mayberry moved to adjourn this Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Borden, Recording Secretary


Steven Dalessio, Chair


Peggy L. Pschirrer


Cheryl Mayberry

(Note: These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections will be found in the Minutes of the October 17, 2019, Selectboard meeting.)